

# WORKPLACE TEAMS



## *Hinds Skilled Trades Scholarship*

The Hinds family is proud to support our community by offering a new scholarship for students pursuing careers in the skilled trades. Hinds Energy is one of the largest employers in Susquehanna County with more than 50 employees, including truckers and service technicians. They have an established oil, propane and water delivery business, and also offer HVAC cooling and water filtration systems. All of their jobs require a skilled, dependable workforce. Understandably, they recognize the value of fostering the next generation of tradespeople.

Ashleigh Hinds had been planning to establish a family fund since around 2005, when her dad, Jim, first expressed interest. She is now grateful for the help provided by our Director of Operations, Jill Swingle whom Ashleigh says, “knew what we needed and was immediately on the same page, caring about our company, and aligned with our thoughts completely.” The Foundation will be screening applicants and will present the Hinds family a short list of candidates to consider. The first Hinds Skilled Trades Scholarship will be awarded this year.



*Hinds family celebrates PA Bicentennial, Montrose 2024.*

## *The Hinds Legacy*

The Hinds family has ancestral roots in Susquehanna County that trace back to its original settlers. Throughout this four generation history, their ancestors have demonstrated philanthropic leadership.

Captain Bartlet Hinds was one the first settlers in Montrose. In 1811, Bartlet and Agnes Hinds and Isaac and Susannah Post donated the Montrose public square for the construction of the first county buildings.

An earlier generation, Bartlet's father Reverend Ebenezer Hinds (1719-1812) was among the group of Baptist pastors who founded Rhode Island College, which later became Brown University, "as a sanctuary of religious and intellectual freedom." It was the first U.S. college to admit students of all faiths.

Ebenezer was a staunch supporter of religious freedom and the separation of church and state, and advocated for the elimination of religious persecution by civil authorities. The family has some oral history which suggests that Ebenezer was a member of a Connecticut delegation who worked with Thomas Jefferson towards enshrining religious freedom in the Constitution. His last earthly gesture was a gift. At his death Ebenezer bequeathed the parsonage he had built himself along with the land upon which it stood to the church he had led for 60 years.